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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 8

THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Written statement submitted by the International Federation Terre des Hommes, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)

[11 August 1996]

1. The German NGO-Forum on the World Summit for Social Development 1/ published a report in 1996 entitled Social Priorities in Development Cooperation, Implementing the 20/20 Initiative.

2. The report mentions that the 20/20 Initiative is an important contribution for reorienting international development cooperation as well as changing the allocation of public budgets in the South according to social priorities. The 20/20 Initiative provides a helpful concept for concentrating public services with the aim of eliminating absolute poverty. This approach is particularly important for vulnerable groups of the population who do not always meet the necessary conditions for productive self-help activities, e.g. children.

1/ C/o Friedrich-Ebert-Stifung, Godesberger Allee 149, 53170 Bonn, Germany.

3. The high degree of international attention which the 20/20 Initiative has attracted as a result of the World Summit for Social Development should be used to mobilize additional resources and to redistribute available funds. Increasing the impact of basic social services is an equally important objective in order to improve the living conditions of target groups.

4. The report recommends linking the 20/20 Initiative to certain qualitative standards. For example, conditions should be defined which allow for strengthening the role of civil society in providing social services. This could mean the participation of professional associations as well as of welfare organizations and self-help initiatives of the target group. The participation should not be limited to the implementation, but should include the outline of sectoral policies, monitoring and programme development.

5. Within the context of the 20/20 Initiative an explicit reference should be made to economic, social and cultural rights.